

Message From The Harbormaster

January 2, 2009

I hope you all have weathered the Holidays with plenty of good will and good cheer. Although there seem to be plenty of challenges facing Alaskans and all of us as Americans, I think there is still a lot to be thankful and optimistic about. Here on the waterfront in Whittier, your staff is working hard to improve our service to you, the customer, and to continue to work towards maintaining and improving the facility.

We have survived another budget building and tariff setting process for Calendar Year 2009. The budget for the Harbor is a fairly neutral one that reflects no increase in moorage fees. There was a suggestion to raise Transient Fees by 20% to help support Revenue Bonding for float replacement, but that notion failed in the budget process.

The East Ramp Replacement Project is still in the construction phase but is slated to be complete ahead of its scheduled date for Substantial Completion of April 1, 2009. The three lane ramp will allow two lanes of traffic to go one direction while one lane will handle traffic going the other. This should help to reduce the anxiety levels for those waiting to go in and those rushing to catch tunnels on the way out. We will still have the West Boat Ramp open as tides allow.

Enclosed in January billing you will find two additional items. One is a DRAFT copy of the new Rules and Regulations portion of the new contract packet being recommended by the Port and Harbor Commission to the City Council. If you have any suggestions or comments please feel free to email me at: harbormaster@whittieralaska.gov

The Harbor Staff is trying to separate the Rules and Regulations from the City Code for easier understanding while Title 12 of the Code (pertaining to the Harbor) is being updated for consistency and accuracy. The second is a note from The Whittier Boat Owners Association. They are seeking folks interested in attending their meetings and participating in WBOA's events. They're a great group. Check them out.

We hope that in 2009 we will see some great things happening on our waterfront. We are working hard to get the marina floats replaced, the sheet-pile installed, the boardwalk replaced, the Harbor Building improved or rebuilt and a dozen other projects that we believe we can accomplish. Everything takes time and money. It also takes heart...and that we've got!